



Cat Behaviour Guide

How to Clean Cat Urine



Effective cleaning is essential to reduce house soiling. Cats have a strong sense of smell, and lingering odors will draw them back to that location.

What to Use

Enzymatic cleaners designed for pet urine are the best option. Follow the product instructions and avoid using old cleaners as they may lose potency over time.

What to Avoid

- **Regular cleaning products** do not fully break down urine and are not effective at removing odors.
- **Bleach** or ammonia cleaners, which can leave residue that smells like urine.
- **Heat** can 'bake' urine into different materials, making it harder to remove.

Cleaning Steps:

1. **Act Fast:** Gently blot fresh urine with paper towels, starting from the outside and moving inward to avoid spreading or pushing it deeper in. Discard any cloth towels used.
2. **Cold Water:** Soak with cold water and an enzymatic cleaner. Blot with paper towel or use a shop vac to remove excess liquid. For dried urine, rehydrate by soaking multiple times.
3. **Deep clean:** Remove cushions, covers, baseboards, or lift carpets to access all affected areas. Use a syringe to inject water deeper inside mattresses and cushions to flush out urine.
4. **Washing:** Pre-soak laundry with cold water and enzymatic cleaner, rinse, then use your washing machine's longest cold cycle. Use a handheld carpet cleaner for larger items and flooring.
5. **Repeat:** Urine is tough to remove, so repeat cleaning as necessary.
6. **Replace:** The only way to be confident that the smell is gone is to throw the item out. This is not always practical but should be considered when possible.

Protect the area after cleaning. Disposable puppy pads or reusable, waterproof covers will protect flooring and furniture and make accidents easier to clean. Flexible plastic can be attached to vertical surfaces, like walls, to direct urine onto absorbent pads or trays.

***Tip:** When hiring cleaners, ensure they remove couch covers, use enzymatic cleaners, and avoid heat-based methods.*

Additional Resources:

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